



CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1958



S. LUDKIN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

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NORMAN WARD LTD., LOW FELL,

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Health Department,
Council Offices,
Medomsley Road,
Consett,
Co. Durham.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CONSETT URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

After seven and a half very happy years as your Medical Officer of Health, I now present my last annual report on the vital statistics, health services and sanitary circumstances of your Area for the year 1958.

There were no special incidents or circumstances to which I wish to draw your attention, indeed we were free from any major epidemic, there were no maternal deaths, no cases of diphtheria, one of food poisoning, 3 of poliomyelitis, 5 deaths and only 23 newly notified cases of tuberculosis—the lowest annual tuberculosis notification rate ever recorded in the district. The annual investigation of still-births and infant deaths was continued, this year in much greater detail and involved close co-operation with general medical practitioners, midwives, maternity hospital staff and the pathologist at Shotley Bridge General Hospital who carried out the post-mortem examinations.

Routine was adjusted so that every single available dose of poliomyelitis vaccine was given as soon as possible.

The importance and value of the personal health services has become more apparent year by year, and it will be noted that 65 per cent. of the visits of the domiciliary nurses are to old people while 95 per cent. of those being provided with home helps are old-age pensioners. The value of chiropody services, etc., and comprehensive schemes for physically and mentally handicapped are being recognised and are becoming a necessity. Social welfare and health are inseparable and fortunately the climate of opinion for the development of these services would appear to be suitable.

We have pressed on very successfully with slum clearance schemes and together with other duties in relation to atmospheric pollution, food hygiene, meat inspection, etc., the staff of the department have been kept very busy.

Finally I should like to thank the Members of the Council for their encouragement and support and the staff of my own department for their loyal assistance during the years I have had the privilege of being your Medical Officer of Health.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

STANLEY LUDKIN,
Medical Officer of Health.

I. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS RELATING TO THE **CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT**

Area (Acres)	10,042
Population (Estimated)	38,890
(i) Estimated number of children:—	
Under 5 years	3,100
5-14 years	6,200
Marriages in the Area during 1958 (Estimated)	303
Number of Inhabited houses	11,640
(i) Number of Aged Miners' Homes	56
(ii) Number of Council Aged Persons' Homes	233
(iii) Number of Council houses	3,335
(iv) Number of Houses and Shops combined	141
(v) Number of Lock-up Shops	301
(vi) Number of Occupied Houses under Closing or Demolition Orders	2
(vii) Estimated number of Houses unfit for human habitation	86
Rateable Value, April 1st., 1958	£394,084
Net Product of a Penny Rate April 1st., 1958	£1,505

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF EMPLOYED PERSONS

	Males	Females	Totals
(i) Iron and Steel Manufacture, etc.	5,133	380	5,513
(ii) Mining	5,095	110	5,205
(iii) Building & Civil Engineering	1,360	16	1,376
(iv) Professional Services (Medicine Education)	399	1,110	1,509
(v) Distributive	392	797	1,189
(vi) Transport (Road, Rail Haulage)	917	218	1,135
(vii) Chemicals, Bye-products, Coke Tar	498	29	527
(viii) Vehicle building and Maintenance	298	38	336
(ix) Catering, Baking, etc.	108	479	587
(x) National & Local Government	437	51	488
(xi) Textile & Clothing	8	137	145
(xii) Other Industries & Miscellaneous Services	1,963	838	2,801
	<u>16,608</u>	<u>4,203</u>	<u>20,811</u>

Due to an extension in the area covered by the Consett Employment Exchange the above figures now include small numbers of employable persons in the Lanchester, Hexham, Weardale Rural and Blaydon Urban Districts. It has been found impossible to extract figures for the Consett Urban District alone, and therefore, the statistics cannot be accurately compared with those given in previous reports.

UNEMPLOYED AND DISABLED

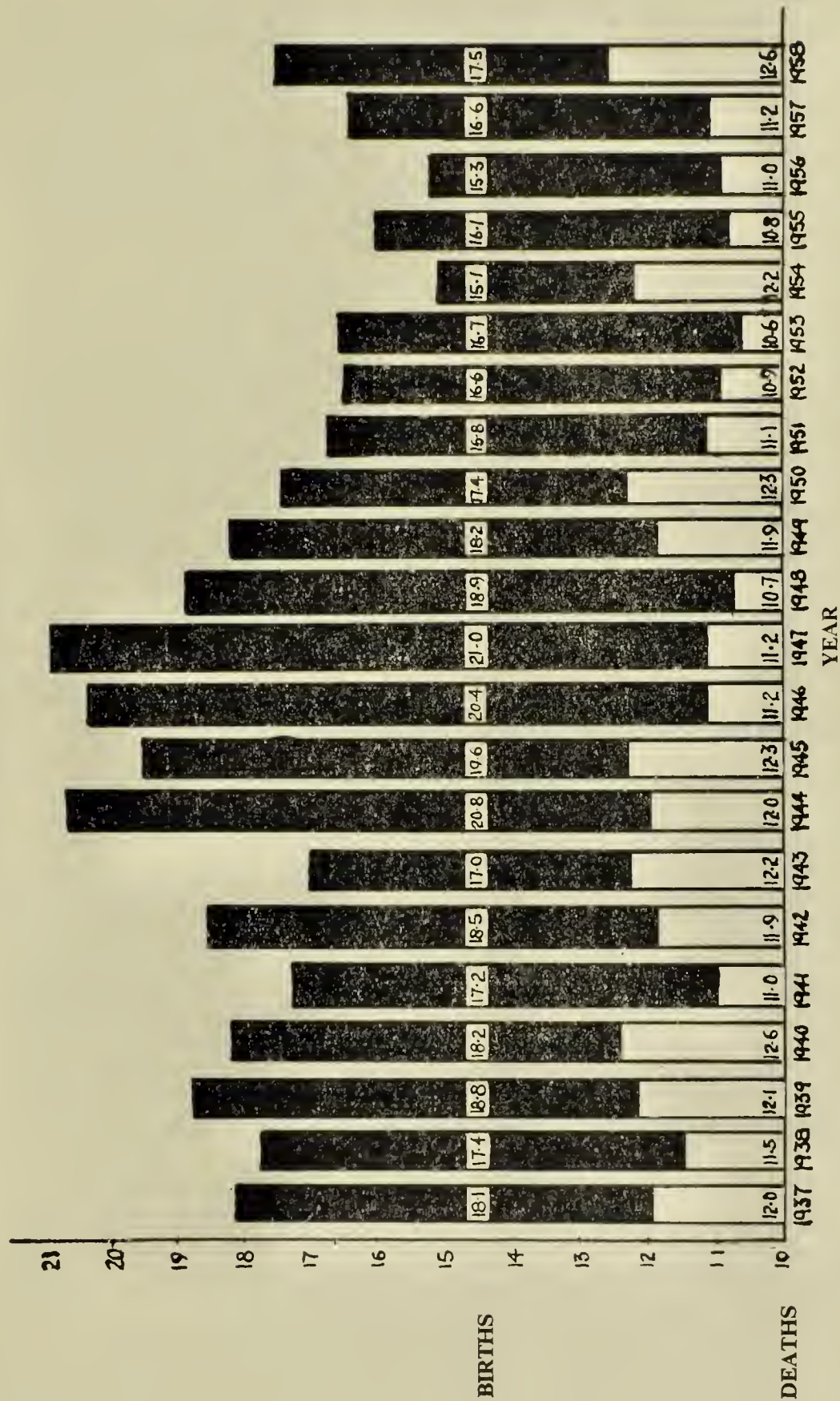
	Males	Females	Totals
(i) Employable Persons out of work at the end of 1958	444	170	614
(ii) Persons registered as Disabled	766	59	825
(iii) Percentage of Registered Disabled who were on the Tuberculosis Register	—	—	5.9
(iv) Disabled persons trained	4	—	4
(v) No. of persons who have had special rehabilitation during 1958	4	—	4
(vi) No. of T.B. persons who have had special rehabilitation during 1958	1	—	1
(vii) Tuberculosis persons trained during 1958 ..	2	—	2
(viii) No. of Registered Blind Persons	27	35	62
(ix) No. of Partially Sighted Persons	6	20	26

COMPARATIVE RATES

	England and Wales	Durham County	Consett
No. of Live Births per 1,000 population ..	16.4	18.6	17.5
No. of still births per 1000 live and still births	21.6	23.2	22.9
No. of maternal deaths per 1,000 live and still births	0.43	0.67	—
No. of infant deaths per 1,000 related live births	22.5	25.0	41.0
No. of deaths per 1,000 population	11.7	11.3	12.6
No. of Tuberculosis deaths per 1,000 population	1.10	0.12	0.12
No. of Pulmonary Tuberculosis deaths per 1,000 population	0.09	0.11	0.10
No. of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis deaths per 1,000 population	0.01	0.02	0.02

The standardised birth and death rates for the area, *i.e.*, rates calculated in such a way that allowances are made for the age and sex composition of the population were 17.3 and 15.8 respectively.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION SINCE THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESENT URBAN AREA



DETAILED VITAL STATISTICS

(See Appendix A)

BIRTHS

(a) Live Births					Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	334	335	669
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	8	5	13
					<u>342</u>	<u>340</u>	<u>682</u>
(b) Still Births							
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	12	3	15
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
					<u>13</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>16</u>

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
No. of Still Births per 1,000 population	0.43	0.66	0.46	0.38	0.33	0.30	0.38	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.41
No. of Live and Still Births per 1,000 population	19.4	18.3	17.9	17.2	16.9	17.0	15.5	16.6	15.8	16.2	17.9
No. of Still Births per 1,000 Live and Still Births	22.8	35.4	25.6	22.2	19.7	18.1	24.9	26.3	26.1	25.7	22.9

During the year there were 16 still births (22.9 per 1,000 live and still births).

DEATHS

	Males	Females	Totals
Deaths during the year	262	228	490
Deaths from Puerperal Causes ..	—	—	—

(a) Infant Deaths

The number of infant deaths during the year was 28 (41.0 per 1,000 live births). Nineteen of these occurred within the first week of life.

Our infant mortality rate, although initially higher in 1937 (70.9 deaths under one year per 1,000 live births, as compared with 70 for Durham County and 53.0 for England and Wales) began to fall steadily and last year with the lowest rate ever recorded (21.7) was below that for the County (27.0) and also that for England and Wales (23.0). This reduction was mainly confined to those infants dying between the age of 1 week and 1 year, the number of those dying under 1 week, as with stillbirths, remaining much the same throughout the years.

This year, however, quite unexpectedly, while the stillbirth rate has remained the same as last year, the total number of infant deaths has doubled (from 14 to 28) the increase affecting all ages under 1 year. Twice as many died this year from prematurity and congenital malformations and three times as many from pneumonia.

Whether a child is still born or dies within the first week of life is frequently a matter of chance and as the causes are usually the same, the 16 recorded in the first category and the 19 in the second should therefore be grouped together when considering the problem of prevention. For a long time this group has thus been the hardcore of wasted infant life. Greater attention is now being given to it, and one cannot stress too strongly the importance of adequate advice, medical attention and care of expectant mothers together with the education of the nursing mother in the principles of nutrition and prevention of infections, and of course, more research into the causes of death.

Separate and combined meetings were held at the Richard Murray Hospital to which County Midwives, Hospital Staff, County Council Welfare Medical Officers, the Chest Physician, General Medical Practitioners and myself were invited. These were sponsored by Mr. Hunter, Consultant Obstetrician and also the local Division of the British Medical Association. At these meetings subjects relating to obstetrics and care of the expectant mother and newly born child were discussed. In addition, this will be the third year during which a detailed investigation of perinatal deaths (still-births and deaths in the first week of life) occurring in Stanley and Consett Urban Districts has taken place. Each year I present a report and each year the scope of the investigation increases till we have now reached the stage where a complete case history of each perinatal death can be compiled by bringing together records of the General Medical Practitioner, Midwife, Local Health Authority Clinic and Maternity Hospital. A scheme which ensures that as far as possible all such infants are subjected to a post-mortem examination was brought in to operation on the 1st April, the midwives being responsible for conveying to the Pathologist all those still-births and infant deaths which took place in Consett Urban District, 28 had post-mortem examinations by the Pathologist.

The value of this project should increase, particularly now that quarterly consideration is being given to these cases and a more accurate diagnosis of cause of death is being made. The cause of death having thus been established it must then, if possible, be related to some maternal factor or incident occurring during or after delivery. Terms like prematurity and inanition should disappear since they are merely the end result of a disordered pregnancy.

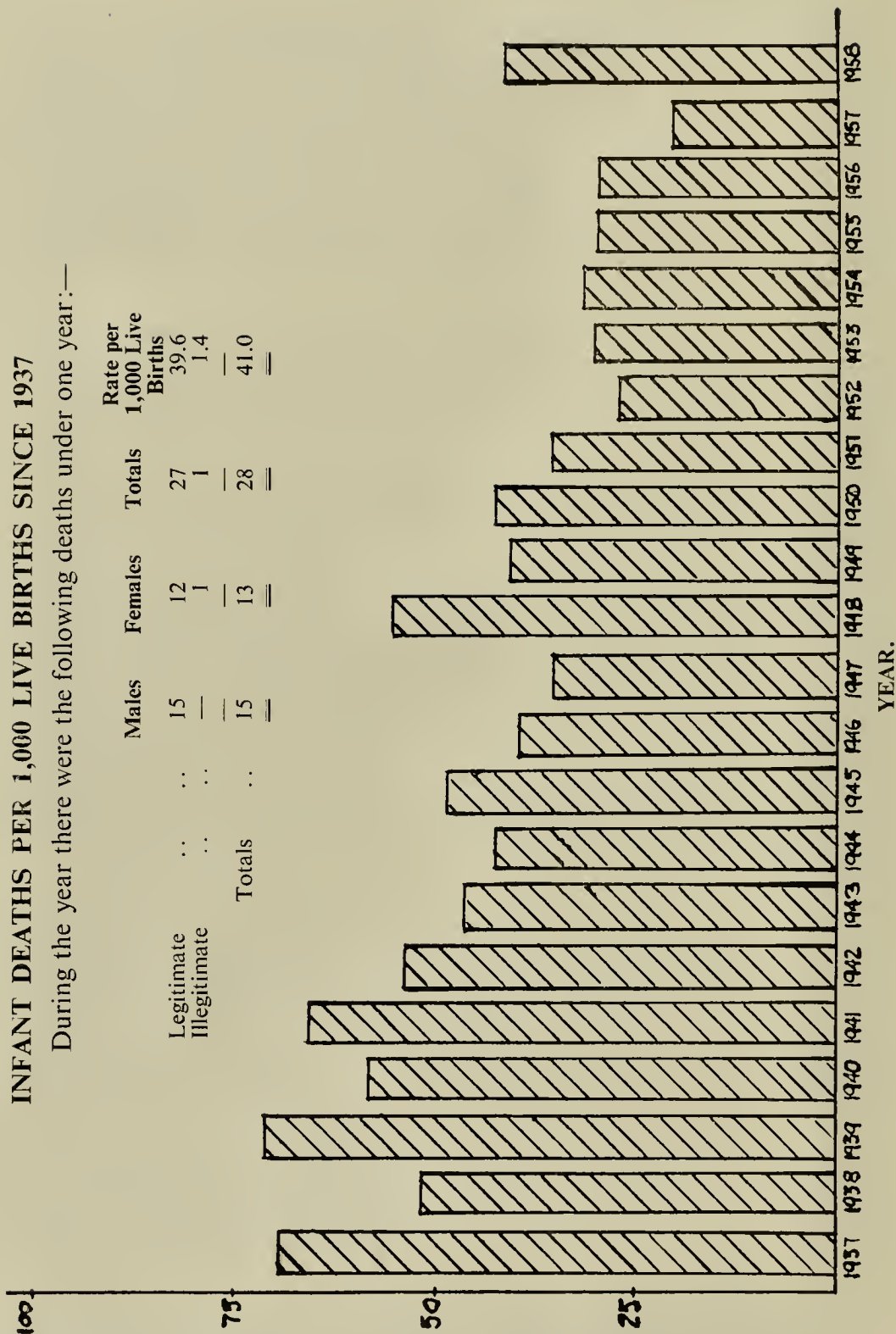
Analysis of Infant Deaths during First Year of Life (1958)

Cause.	Under 1 week	1 to 4 weeks	1 to 12 months
Prematurity	8	—	—
Congenital malformations	5	3	—
Asphyxia	1	—	—
Broncho pneumonia	4	1	5
Post delivery—cerebral injury	1	—	—
	19	4	5

INFANT DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS SINCE 1937

During the year there were the following deaths under one year:—

	Males	Females	Totals	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Legitimate	15	12	27	39.6
Illegitimate	..	1	1	1.4
	..	—	—	—
Totals	15	13	28	41.0
	—	—	—	—



(b) Deaths (General)	Male	Female	Total
ALL CAUSES	262	228	490
1. Cardio vascular:—			
(a) Vascular lesions of nervous system	38	51	89
(b) Coronary disease	51	41	92
(c) Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3
(d) Other heart diseases ..	15	29	44
(e) Other circulatory diseases	14	7	21
Totals ..	<u>120</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>249</u>
2. Cancer:—			
(a) Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	11	9	20
(b) Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	14	1	15
(c) Malignant Neoplasm, breast	1	7	8
(d) Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	5	5
(e) Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ..	26	22	48
Totals ..	<u>52</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>96</u>
3. Chest Diseases:—			
(a) Pneumonia	12	6	18
(b) Bronchitis	19	3	22
(c) Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1	4
Totals ..	<u>34</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>44</u>
4. Tuberculosis—all forms	4	1	5
5. Influenza	1	—	1
6. Syphilitic diseases	1	—	1
7. Leukaemia	1	—	1
8. Diabetes	—	2	2
9. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	1	1
10. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	1	1
11. Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	3	4	7
12. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
13. Congenital Malformations ..	4	4	8
14. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—
15. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	22	21	43
16. Accidents	12	8	20
17. Suicide	4	3	7
18. Homicide	1	—	1

The main causes of death in the district during the year were diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System, Cancer, Bronchitis and Pneumonia, in that order of prevalence. It will be noted that there were 15 deaths from Carcinoma of the Lung, 14 of whom were males, and it is timely to be reminded that not only is there an association between cigarette smoking and lung cancer, but also that cigarette smoking increases liability to the disease—a liability which is reduced when smoking is discontinued. The number of deaths from Coronary Thrombosis has again increased, this time by 12 deaths. Fifty-one of the 92 deaths due to this disease were in males, a differential in the sexes which appears to be decreasing with the years.

During the year there were 20 accidents causing deaths of which 8 occurred in the home (6 of these being in people over the age of 65 years), 5 occurred at work, and 5 (aged 18, 68, 72, 73 and 78 years) occurred on the roads.

Every era has its own particular medical and social problems ; there is a constant shift of emphasis from one problem to the next as the years go by. Sometimes this is prompted by necessity, sometimes by advances in medical knowledge, while occasionally humanitarian concepts alone dictate the changes. And so, as a result, throughout the ages health and welfare services have been re-orientated in order to adapt themselves and to be of the greatest value to the community.

To-day many beds in sanatoria and infectious diseases hospitals are empty, while mental hospitals are overcrowded. Deaths from Tuberculosis are dramatically decreasing ; deaths from Cancer and Coronary Thrombosis are increasing. More expectant mothers are being delivered in hospital and still more maternity and ante-natal beds are demanded. More old and chronic sick remain at home and receive outpatient treatment and home nursing with a need for chiropody services and more hostels for the aged and handicapped who require accommodation, care and attention not otherwise provided. More community care as opposed to hospital care of those suffering from mental defect or mental illness is to be the next step. In addition responsibilities will be added because of the possible problems associated with the safe working with and preparation of radio-active materials for industry, hospitals and research and safe disposal of the resulting radioactive wastes.

More consideration is being given these days to accidents in the homes. While only a small portion are fatal, they continue to cause a great deal of unnecessary suffering and disability apart from any associated inconvenience. Most could be avoided and many others reduced in severity by wider knowledge of risks and precautions and by ensuring that preventive measures are adopted in time. Particular attention should be given where there are children under school age and those over 65 years. For every 7 children killed on the roads, 10 die from accidents in the home.

The kitchen and bathroom are the two most dangerous rooms, with their gas taps, electric switches, the various appliances including heaters, fires, and of course boiling water, although lounges, bedrooms and stairs with loose carpets on polished surfaces, trailing electric flex or loose stair-rods can be just as lethal.

So far as burns are concerned, the wearing of safer garments made of flame-resistant material, while it will reduce the risk of burning accidents, will not remove it. The safest measure is to guard the fires. The law requires new gas, electric and oil fires to be fitted with guards but it cannot compel the fitting of guards to old fires or the use of guards with open fires. This must be the responsibility of the individual house holder, especially those who have the care of children, old or handicapped people.

In an attempt to assess the number of accidents occurring in the district where either hospital outpatient or inpatient treatment was required and also to distinguish the types of accidents and persons involved, the hospital authorities kindly agreed to provide the appropriate statistics. The investigation commenced towards the end of the year and will continue for a period.

II. HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

A. Environmental Circumstances and Local Authority Services

Staff of Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health and County Area Medical Officer for Consett and Stanley Urban and Lanchester Rural District:

S. LUDKIN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

H. WALTON, M.A.P.H.I., Registered Architect, Certificate S.I.B., and Meat Inspectors' Certificate.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

T. E. HODGSON, M.A.P.H.I., Certificate S.I.B., and Meat Inspectors' Certificate.

T. J. BURDUS, M.A.P.H.I., Certificate S.I.B., and Meat Inspectors' Certificate. (Appointed 1st April, 1958).

Pupil Public Health Inspectors:

D. HUBBICK

B. ARMSTRONG (Appointed 7th October, 1958. Attending Salford "Sandwich" Course).

Rodent Officer and Market Inspector:

S. ROBINSON.

Clerical Staff:

MISS P. E. BARROW, MRS. E. WINTER, MISS M. VICKERS.

With the Council's approval the Surveyor kindly continued to arrange for a member of his staff to carry out most of the inspections connected with housing improvement grants and granting of petroleum and carbide licences. This was of considerable help to us in ensuring that the more essential inspectorate duties of the Department were attended to.

(a) GENERAL

Water. The Durham County Water Board provide the public supply from their reservoirs at Smiddy Shaw, Waskerley Park and Hisehope, filtration and chlorination being carried out at Honey Hill, Waskerley. We found a residual of approximately 0.1 p.p.m. of chlorine in all the samples examined.

The Sunderland and South Shields Water Company's and Durham County Water Board's project for the construction of the new Derwent reservoir is being pushed ahead as quickly as possible. Details regarding its design are being considered and the contract for the construction of

the large filter plant at Mosswood has been awarded and it is hoped to let the contract for the construction of the dam early this summer. As soon as the contract is let it is anticipated that the work will commence without delay. It is estimated that this reservoir will be able to supply about twenty million gallons of water per day.

Bacteriological quality of the water during the year has been under constant observation and has been of very satisfactory quality. Unfortunately it has been very highly coloured due to heavy and continuous rainfall and to improve the physical quality of the water, the Board proposed to construct a new filter plant at Honey Hill. The natural flourine content fluctuates between 0.1 and 0.5 parts per million—an amount which would have to be supplemented if the maximum benefit is to be derived from this chemical substance in the prevention of dental caries and the premature loss of teeth in children and adolescents.

During the year the Board laid 700 yards of new 3-in. and 4-in. mains to distribute water in the Area and the trunk mains are being cross-connected to improve the continuity of supply.

Five houses and one weekend cottage however, still rely on spring water. During the year two houses without a proper piped supply were demolished.

DETAILS OF SPRING SUPPLIES

Ward	No. of		Type of Supply				Method of Distribution				
	Houses	Occu- pants	Public	Private	Spring	Well	Carried	Gravi- tation Piped	Pumped	House Service	
Medomsley	1	3	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
Ebchester	1	2	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Consett South	2	4	—	2	2	—	—	2	—	1	1
Leadgate	2	4	—	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
TOTALS	6	13	—	6	6	—	3	3	—	2	4

Thirty-seven samples were forwarded to the Bacteriologist and results graded in accordance with the Ministry of Health Report, "The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies, 1949" are as follows:—

	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total
Public Water Supply ..	8	—	1	1	10
Other Sources of Supply (Springs, Wells, etc.)	8	7	3	9	27
Totals	16	7	4	10	37

In the case of the samples which indicated contamination occupiers were warned to boil all water before use.

Drainage and Sewage. A new pumping station and pumping main has been completed for the sewerage of houses and farms between Hamsterley Colliery and Hamsterley Mill Estate. These new works are connected to the existing pumping station at Hamsterley Colliery which is part of the drainage system being treated at Westwood Sewage Works.

The new sewage works at Knitsley have been completed and the existing works have been demolished.

The commencement of a new sewer has been made to drain the Jolly Drovers, Eden Colliery and Redwell Hills area of Leadgate.

Appendix C indicates the number and sites of sewage works, also the approximate number of properties draining there together with the population which they serve.

Sanitary Conveniences

During the year, 10 conversions of earth closets/privy middens to W.C.s. were carried out.

The types of closet in use in the Council's Area are as follows:—

Water-closets	..	..	..	..	13,295
Ash-closets	..	..	..	..	83
Privy Middens	..	..	..	..	8

Of the remaining ash-closets and privy middens, 49 are in such a situation that it is impossible to connect them with a sewer, while 4 are part of slum properties which we hope will be demolished within the next few years.

Atmospheric Pollution

Certain provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956 relating mainly to smoke control areas, requirements regarding new furnaces and colliery spoil banks were brought into operation on 31st December, 1956, the remainder of the provisions became operative on 1st June, 1958.

By regulation the Minister of Housing and Local Government has now extended the list of works subject to control under the Alkali, etc., Works Regulations of 1906. This extended list now includes processes in iron and steel works, gas and coke works, and ceramic works, and the Electricity Board plants in this Area, the result of this being that after 1st June, 1958, virtually all forms of pollution from premises controlled under the Alkali Act became subject to control under that Act by the Alkali Inspectorate. Any pollution that does occur from the Works is unfortunately accentuated by the fact that this town's major industry is situated to the windward side of the town centre. A large amount of

pollution of course still comes from domestic stoves and fireplaces burning coal. Most of it is discharged at low level. Normally it is not dark smoke and therefore not covered by Section I of the Act, the only possible way of controlling it being by the institution of smoke control areas. This latter scheme is hindered in the district by the fact that miners obtain concessionary coal which is not of course of the smokeless variety. The Council have however approved the Building Byelaws for compulsory installation of smokeless heating and cooking appliances in all new buildings including Council houses. Smoke emission from other industrial processes in the Area is well under control.

The recording of atmospheric pollution in various parts of the district was continued throughout the Area. In the case of the four deposit gauges we now have records for the last five consecutive years and for the last four years in the case of the sulphur dioxide gauges.

The close and friendly contact and co-operation between the Department and the representatives of The Consett Iron Company has continued as before.

Prevention of Damage by Pests

During the year, 1,100 inspections were made to private dwellings, business premises, Local Authority's properties and agricultural premises. (*See Appendix D*).

The maintenance treatments of sewers and sewage disposal works were completed at two six-monthly intervals as required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. During the first treatment in April, 242 manholes were pre-baited and poisoned, and 49 were found to be infested. In the October treatment, 208 manholes were treated and 31 were found to be infested. Test baiting was also carried out and of 170 manholes treated, only 3 partial takes were recorded.

Treatments to sewage disposal works and pump houses were also carried out during the second treatment to the sewers and minor infestations were found at three sewage works. (*See Appendix E*).

Disinfestation

Eighty-nine houses were treated for the eradication of bed bugs, insects, beetles, etc.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

During the year, one licence for the keeping of pet animals was issued and four routine inspections were carried out.

In order to avoid unnecessary distress to animals sold from pet shops resulting from ignorance on the part of the purchaser, in 1957, the Council made it a condition of issue of a licence that the proprietors of pet shops should also issue leaflets dealing with the feeding, care and management of each animal sold.

(b) HOUSING AND FACTORIES

(i) General

During the year, the following Council houses were erected:—

Locality	Two Bedroomed	Three Bedroomed	Aged Persons (Two Bedroomed)	Total
Delves Lane	4	6	4	14
Moorside	8	25	—	33
Ebchester	9	26	—	35
Shotley Bridge	8	14	—	22
	29	71	4	104

In addition, certificates of completion were issued in relation to 54 private houses.

Since the war a total of 2,273 houses have been completed in the district:—

	Council Houses	Private
1946	58	10
1947	238	16
1948	268	29
1949	195	12
1950	134	13
1951	109	12
1952	116	12
1953	146	29
1954	170	35
1955	136	35
1956	107	47
1957	130	58
1958	104	54
	<u>1,911</u>	<u>362</u>

(ii) Improvement Grants

Improvement Grants as provided for by the Housing Act, 1949 and the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, have brought forward the approval of 98 applications since the inception of the scheme. Seventy-two have been completed and the properties brought up to the necessary standard.

(iii) Medical Priority for Re-housing

The Council's practice of allocating a number of new houses and casual lettings to medical cases has continued and in view of our concern to reduce the incidence of Tuberculosis in the Area, all of this allocation was granted to overcrowded families or families living in insanitary circumstances who had, in addition, one or more members suffering from Tuberculosis. This year two such families were re-housed.

(iv) **Houses Unfit for Human Habitation**

Individual

One demolition order and 4 closing orders were made.

Clearance Areas

WOOD STREET, SHOTLEY BRIDGE, CLEARANCE AREA NO. 1. This clearance area was approved by the Ministry in 1957 and since then, 12 families, a total of 36 persons, have been re-housed. In the case of the remaining two dwellings one had already been vacated and the occupants of the other died.

CHAPEL STREET—WALTON'S ROW, BLACKHILL, COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER. These ten houses have now been demolished.

EAST VIEW, TEMPLETOWN, CLEARANCE AREA. Ministry approval was given for the demolition of 15 houses in this Area. Fourteen of these families have now been re-housed, the owner-occupier, who was living alone in the remaining house, having died.

WOOD STREET, SHOTLEY BRIDGE, CLEARANCE AREA NO. 3. An inquiry was held and it was subsequently confirmed that all the 19 houses be included in a clearance area. Eight families, a total of 23 persons, have now been re-housed.

Further schemes for another 34 houses under clearance areas or compulsory purchase orders, at Plantation Street, Leadgate, Backstone Burn, Blackhill, and Walton's Row, Blackhill, have been submitted to the Council.

The demolition of houses condemned in 1957 has proceeded very slowly, the main difficulty being in obtaining demolition contractors. Seventy-seven families, a total of 245 persons, were re-housed. There still remain 42 houses to be demolished.

(v) **Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	137
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	427
(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	86
(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	96

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ..	39
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Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(i) Proceedings under the appropriate sections of the 1957 Housing Act :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(ii) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(iii) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 and Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	60
(3) Number of houses made fit as the result of Undertakings	Nil
(iv) Proceedings under the appropriate sections of the 1957 Housing Acts:	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	4
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
(v) Number of houses closed by Informal Action	Nil

(vi) Disrepair Certificates—Rent Act, 1957

Since this Act came into force, fourteen tenants have served Form G certificate upon their landlords specifying defects existing in their houses after notice of increase of rent. Three of these properties were repaired after Form J certificate had been served by this Authority and five other properties, the landlords of which had given undertakings to repair, were also completed in accordance with Form J. Another undertaking given by the landlord was not completed within the stipulated period of six months and upon request from the tenant, Form P—Certificate as to the Remedying of Defects Specified in a Landlord's Undertaking to Remedy Defects—was issued. Five Certificates of Disrepair were issued and work has been completed but the landlords have only made requests to have two of these certificates cancelled.

Factories

One hundred and fifty visits were made to factories in which persons were employed. (*See Appendix F*).

Outworkers. Only one person (altering wearing apparel) was notified as being an outworker.

(c) GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Analysis of inspections and notices served under the Public Health and Housing Acts :—

	Inspections	No. of INFORMAL Notices served	No. of STATU- TORY Notices served	Defects remedied after Notice
Housing:				
Public Health and Housing Acts ..	1,688	219	3	201
Sanitary Conveniences:				
Insufficient	16	1	—	1
Defective	72	15	—	13
Water Supply and Samples	68	6	—	3
Food Premises:				
Ice Cream Vehicles	1	—	—	—
Ice Cream Samples and Retailers ..	50	5	—	5
Grocer/General Dealers	229	62	—	48
Confectioners	82	13	—	11
Food Manufacturing Premises (Section 14)	173	53	—	31
Bakehouses	31	14	—	13
Greenfruit	14	3	—	3
Wet and Fried Fish Shops	61	18	—	13
Catering Establishments	72	18	—	12
Hotels, Inns and Public Houses ..	84	—	—	—
Ice Cream Manufacturers	38	1	—	1
Market:				
Food Stalls	40	7	—	7
Fruiterers	72	4	—	4
Drainage	274	47	—	76
Private Slaughterhouses	2,656	53	—	47
Tents, Vans, Sheds	150	6	—	6
Factories and Workplaces	150	11	—	12
Keeping of Animals	45	6	—	6
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles ..	160	160	—	160
Clean Air Act:				
Smoke Nuisances	237	15	—	7
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act ..	1,100	140	—	140
Cinemas	15	—	—	—
Pet Stores	4	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	264	25	—	30
Interviews	142	—	—	—
Dairies and Milk Shops	3	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases	91	—	—	—
Marine Stores	9	—	—	—
Deposit Gauges	153	—	—	—
Totals ..	8,244	902	3	850

(d) INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(i) General

Nine hundred and forty seven inspections were carried out to the 373 premises which consist of food preparation rooms, shops, cafes and public houses, particular attention being given to butchers' preparation rooms, cafes and bakehouses. Appendix G details the various types of food establishments visited and the circumstances found which warranted notices being served to conform with the appropriate Acts and Byelaws.

One case of food being sold in contravention of Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (not of the nature, substance or quality of the food demanded by the purchaser) was referred to the Food and Drugs Department at Durham County Council and legal proceedings were instituted at Consett Magistrates Court, the defendant being found guilty and a fine imposed.

(ii) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The following were on the register at the 31st December, 1958 :—

Distributors	81
----------------------	----

(iii) Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

The following licences were issued during the year under review :—

Dealers' Licence to use the special designation " Tuberculin Tested "	
with regard to raw milk	3
Supplementary Licences (Tuberculin Tested Milk)	2

(iv) Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations, 1949

The following licences were issued during the year under review :—

Dealers' Licence to use the special designation " Pasteurised "	..	46
Dealers' Licence to use the special designation " Sterilised "	.. ..	48
Dealers' Licence to use the special designation " Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised) "	.. .. .	34
Dealers' Supplementary Licence to use the special designation " Pasteurised "	.. .. .	1
Dealers' Supplementary Licence to use the special designation " T.T. (Pasteurised) "	.. .. .	1
Dealers' Supplementary Licence to use the special designation " Sterilised "	.. .. .	1

(v) Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Routine inspections were carried out at all premises used for the manufacture, sale and storage of food.

The following premises were registered under the Act :—

Ice Cream manufacture	8
Ice Cream Sale and Storage	128
Preparation or Manufacture of Sausages, Potted or Pressed Food ..	36
Preparation or Manufacture of Fish and Potatoes	16

In addition there are the following premises :—

Bakehouses	10
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	22
Shops:—	
General Dealers	92
Grocers	41
Green Fruit	28
Confectionery	39
Wet Fish Shops	5
Fried Fish and Chip Shops	15
Licensed Premises (Hotels, Public Houses, Inns)	74
Miscellaneous	3

Appendix G gives the number of notices served and the defects remedied.

(vi) Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 and 1948

All premises used for the manufacture and storage of ice cream were regularly inspected and a very high standard of hygiene has been maintained. Periodic sampling provided the following satisfactory results.

Ice Cream Sample Results :—

	No. of Samples
Grade I	62
Grade II	14
Grade III	7
Grade IV	6
Total	<u>89</u>

(vii) Meat and Other Foods

SLAUGHTERHOUSES—Eleven privately owned slaughterhouses situated at Consett, Blackhill, Shotley Bridge and Broomhill, Ebchester, have been in use. The new slaughterhouse at Broomhill, Ebchester, with a floor area of 5,000 sq. ft., complies with the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, and is now in operation although not being used to its full capacity. The majority of animals slaughtered at these various premises are for their owner's private butcher's shops and only a small proportion is being sold wholesale. Two thousand six hundred and fifty six visits have been made for post mortem and ante-mortem inspection and 100 per cent. inspection of all dressed carcasses was obtained. Details of carcasses and their organs which were condemned are given in Appendix H. Fifty per cent. of the meat consumed in the Area was from slaughterhouses outside the Area.

Condemned meats are stained in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations and disposal is arranged by a by-product firm on Tyneside who specialise in this type of work.

The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958, which came into operation on 1st January, 1959, were brought to the notice of the owners of slaughterhouses.

Altogether 8,004 animals were slaughtered during the year.

	Animals slaughtered from Collecting Centres	Animals slaughtered as Casualties
Bulls	1	—
Bullocks	467	—
Cows	4	2
Heifers	1,148	1
Calves	9	5
Sheep	4,263	35
Pigs	2,064	5
Totals	7,956	48

Food found to be unfit for human consumption:—

472 tins Fruit	56 jars Jam
318 tins Vegetables	12 jars Sandwich Paste
267 tins Tomatoes	154 pkts. Flour
149 tins Meat	121 pkts. Confectionery
147 tins Ham	25 pkts. Koray (Headache Tablets)
63 tins Soup	20 pkts. Dried Fruit
53 tins Milk	19 pkts. Cheese
46 tins Fish	7 pkts. Cereals
40 tins Puddings	2 pkts. Oxo Cubes
28 tins Fruit Juice	28-lbs. Dried Egg
5 tins Syrup	22-lbs. Fats
107 jars Pickles, Sauces, etc.	4-lbs. Sugar

The total weight condemned was 1 ton 2qrs. 11½-lbs.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 and Amendment Act, 1954

There were 42 licensed slaughtermen on the register at the end of the year.

Market Square

Through a Council resolution approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the market now only operates on Fridays and Saturdays. There are some thirty stalls which include three greengrocery and four food stalls, two confectionery vans and one butcher's van. These vans are of a good type and comply with a regulation of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. The provision of a covered-in market could be the only means of stopping infringements of Food Hygiene Regulations.

(e) PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There were 123 cases of notifiable diseases during the year as compared with 1,098 last year.

For analysis of notified and confirmed cases of notifiable diseases see Appendix B.

Laboratory Facilities

These continue to be provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Newcastle General Hospital.

All specimens for animal inoculation are sent to the laboratory attached to the General Hospital, Newcastle.

The service of the Public Health Laboratory has continued to be used extensively by General Practitioners.

Year						Specimens Submitted	Positive
1947	..	..	..	..	..	111	32
1948	..	..	..	..	..	54	18
1949	..	..	..	..	..	71	14
1950	..	..	..	..	..	99	35
1951	..	..	..	..	..	64	22
1952	..	..	..	..	..	431	83
1953	..	..	..	..	..	1,325	484
1954	..	..	..	..	..	773	175
1955	..	..	..	..	..	589	81
1956	..	..	..	..	..	584	83
1957	..	..	..	..	..	433	21
1958	..	..	..	..	..	536	21

The following table gives particulars of specimens sent in by the Health Department and the Medical Practitioners in the Area for examination during the year:—

Bacteriological Examinations

						Number of Specimens Submitted	Positive
Faeces :							
(a)	Enteric Fever	..	..	..	}	3	—
(b)	Dysentery	..	..	..		53	3
(c)	Food Poisoning	..	..	..		17	—
(d)	Other Organisms	..	..	..		—	—
Swabs (Throat, Nasal and Ear) :							
(a)	Diphtheria	..	..	..	}	1	—
(b)	Haemolytic Streptococci	..	..	..		—	—
(c)	Other Organisms	..	..	..		—	—
Sputum for Tuberculosis		..	..	..	..	333	18
Water		..	..	..	..	37	—
Ice Cream		..	..	..	..	89	—
Miscellaneous		..	..	..	..	3	—
Totals						536	21

During the year all infectious diseases needing hospitalisation were admitted to Chester-le-Street Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Notifiable Diseases reported during the year 1958

The following table gives particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) in the Area during the year:—

Diseases	Total Number of Cases Notified	Total Number of Cases Confirmed	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	6	6	—	—
Whooping Cough	58	58	—	—
Measles	26	26	—	—
Pneumonia	10	10	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	16	16	—	—
Food Poisoning	8	1	—	—
Dysentery	3	3	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	3	3	—
	130	123	3	—

Scarlet Fever. There were 6 cases notified compared with 41 last year. The infections were mild in type, none were admitted to hospital and there were no deaths.

Measles. There were 26 cases (22 under the age of 5 years) notified compared with 997 last year.

Whooping Cough. Fifty-eight cases were notified throughout the area. The use of whooping cough vaccine either alone or combined with diphtheria antigen has now been proved to be of value in the protection of the very young infants with the result that immunisation against this disease is becoming more and more popular. The County Council provide General Practitioners with both whooping cough vaccine and combined diphtheria-whooping cough antigen.

Poliomyelitis. During the summer months two cases of paralytic poliomyelitis occurred, both being children under the age of two years. In December a third case (non-paralytic) was also notified, this time a girl aged fourteen years. None of these children had been vaccinated against poliomyelitis nor had they received any injections of any sort or had any operations in the previous three months. It is interesting to note that one of the paralytic cases came from a family of six children, the other five had all been vaccinated against the disease. No connection between these three confirmed cases could be ascertained. Both the paralytic cases recovered but were left with a residual degree of weakness in the affected limbs.

We pressed ahead as fast as we could with the vaccination scheme as and when the vaccine became available, and in fact, by December 31st., 1958 (this includes 1956 and 1957 figures) 411 had received one injection

only, 2,748 had received two injections only (254 of these had received second injections in 1957) and 1,097 had received a complete course of three injections. In the last quarter of the year, the Ministry of Health agreed that the vaccination scheme should also include all those under the age of 26 years in addition to expectant mothers and special priority groups.

The question of how long immunity produced by three injections will last will only be answered in time, however, it can be fairly claimed that such immunisation has provided a protective effect so far for two to three years following inoculation. Vaccines when subjected to rigorous safety tests have proved to be safe and have not caused undue reactions. It would appear therefore that if a large enough proportion of the susceptible childhood and adolescent population becomes adequately protected, great changes are to be expected in the epidemiology of the disease and the present pattern of infection and natural immunity may be permanently altered with possible further shift of incidence to the older age groups. Also with larger numbers protected one would expect a limitation in the number of cases and rate of spread to the non-immune, hopes which American doctors claim to have materialised in their country.

Food Poisoning. During the year 1 case of food poisoning was notified.

Diphtheria. No cases of this disease were notified. The last case in the district occurred in 1952 and the last death in 1943. It is, however, still important to ensure that all children continue to be adequately immunised and in particular to secure immunisation of not less than 75 per cent. of babies before their first birthday. Unfortunately the percentage of those immunised under one year is low. At the end of 1958 only 43.8 per cent. of children under five years of age had received the necessary injections within the last four years and only 15 per cent. of school children could be considered to have adequate immunity. The accumulating numbers of susceptibles will therefore be exposed to considerable risk should an epidemic occur.

The total numbers (all age groups) immunised during the year were as follows :—

Primary Injections	..	..	..	..	432
Boosters	..	..	..	..	196

Number of cases and deaths from Diphtheria since 1937 are as follows:-

						No. of Cases	No. of Deaths
1937	..	..	..	..	..	180	15
1938	..	..	..	..	..	154	14
1939	..	..	..	..	..	73	11
1940	..	..	..	..	..	10	3
1941	..	..	..	..	..	18	1
1942	..	..	..	..	..	18	2
1943	..	..	..	..	..	29	2
1944	..	..	..	..	..	33	—
1945	..	..	..	..	..	13	—

						No. of Cases	No. of Deaths
1946	..	..	..	..	..	14	—
1947	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
1948	..	..	..	..	..	2	—
1949	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
1950	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
1951	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
1952	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
1953-1958	..	..	..	..	..	—	—

Tuberculosis. Fewer new cases of tuberculosis—23 in fact—were discovered this year than ever before. There is no doubt that this disease is retreating rapidly. Earlier diagnosis and successful immediate treatment is now possible and the few remaining old chronic infective cases are watched carefully to prevent spread of the germ and thus infection.

Unfortunately plans to vaccinate all school-leavers with B.C.G. vaccine to protect them against tuberculosis had to be postponed because of the priority given to the poliomyelitis scheme.

There were however 5 deaths from the disease, two cases were first notified after death (males aged 51 years and 54 years) and had had no specific anti-tuberculosis treatment, one (male, 62 years) was in an advanced stage of the disease when discovered and died two months later, the fourth was a female aged 56 years who had suffered for ten years with disseminated tuberculosis while the fifth was a boy aged 13 years who had advanced tuberculosis of the spine.

All the milk retailed in the area is now either heat treated in such a way that the tubercle bacilli are killed, or comes from herds that are free from this infection.

1. Statistics

						Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
(a) No. of new cases notified during the year :—								
Males	..	..	..	..	..	10	1	11
Females	..	..	..	..	..	12	—	12
						—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	22	1	23
						==	==	==
(b) No. of deaths registered :—								
Males	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
Females	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
						—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	5
						==	==	==
(c) No. of cases on the Tuberculosis Register :—								
Males	..	..	..	..	..	177	87	264
Females	..	..	..	..	..	206	73	279
						—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	383	160	543
						==	==	==

Age distribution of new cases and deaths are as follows:—

Age Period	C A S E S				D E A T H S			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- 4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
11-15	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
16-20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
21-25	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
26-30	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
31-35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
36-40	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
41-45	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
46-50	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
51-55	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
56-60	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
61-65	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
66-70	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
71-75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
76-80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	10	12	1	—	3	1	1	—
	22		1		4		1	
	23				5			

Cases and Deaths since 1937

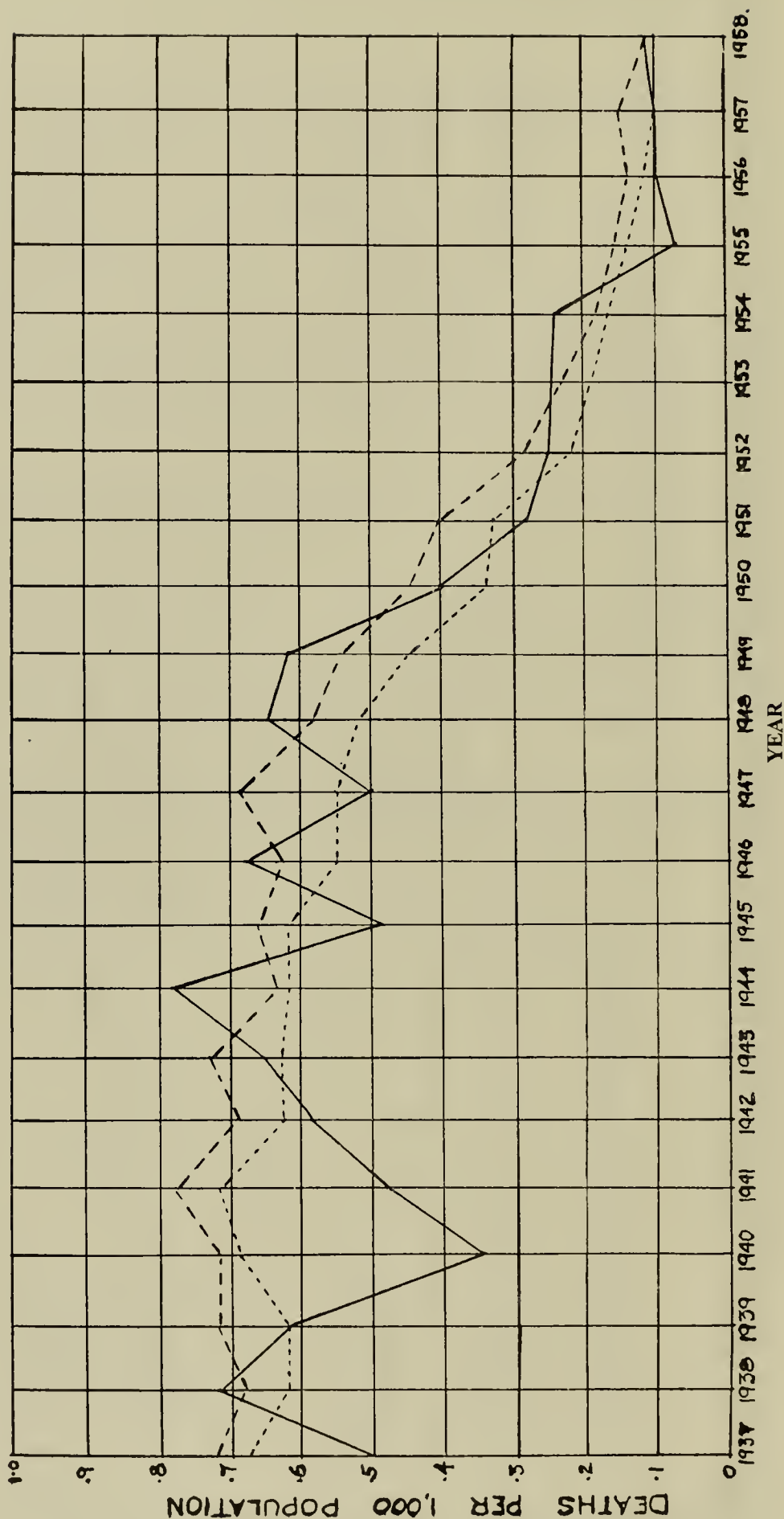
Year	No. of Notifica- tions	Rate per 1,000 pop.	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 pop.	No. of Sanatoria Admiss- ions
1937	53	1.4	15	.51	
1938	49	1.3	27	.72	
1939	49	1.3	23	.66	
1940	39	1.0	13	.43	
1941	39	1.0	18	.51	
1942	39	1.0	12	.58	
1943	43	1.2	24	.67	
1944	77	2.1	18	.79	
1945	54	1.5	28	.48	
1946	47	1.2	17	.68	
1947	59	1.5	20	.50	
1948	72	1.8	22	.66	
1949	49	1.2	25	.61	
1950	91	2.3	11	.40	
1951	76	1.9	11	.28	
1952	47	1.2	10	.25	34
1953	40	1.0	10	.25	42
1954	38	0.97	10	.25	37
1955	26	0.67	3	.07	34
1956	34	0.87	4	.10	34
1957	30	0.77	4	.10	30
1958	23	0.59	5	.12	25

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS MORTALITY RATES 1937-1958

CONSETT U.D.C.

DURHAM COUNTY

ENGLAND & WALES



Tuberculosis Services in the Area

(i) At the Chest Clinic at Villa Real, there are special sessions for contacts of known cases of Tuberculosis, new and old cases and for artificial pneumothorax and pneumoperitoneum refills when considered necessary.

During the year 95 contacts were skin tested, 66 found to be tuberculin negative and 62 were vaccinated with B.C.G.

(ii) Those needing sanatorium treatment are in the main admitted to Maiden Law Tuberculosis Unit ; those needing major surgical treatment being transferred to Seaham Hall, Poole or Wolsingham Sanatorium. During the year 25 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted for hospital treatment.

(iii) There were 543 patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year. Most newly notified cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis are now registered by the Ministry of Labour and National Service as disabled persons and before being allowed to return to work, the patient is assessed at the clinic, and if appropriate a course of industrial rehabilitation at the Felling Unit is arranged by the Disablement Resettlement Officer, after which in most cases suitable employment is found. All these patients are regularly supervised, a very close co-operation existing between the D.R.O. and the Chest Physician. During the year one patient attended the industrial rehabilitation unit.

(iv) After-care responsibility rests with the Durham County Council. Nursing requisites are stored in Durham.

(v) Two families were rehoused because of tuberculosis in a member of the family.

B. Local Health Authority Services

In 1948, the County Council adopted the Ministry approved scheme of dividing the Administrative County into Areas for each of which an Area Health Sub-Committee was appointed. Lanchester Rural, Consett Urban and Stanley Urban Districts, with a total population of approximately 102,000, comprise No. 3 Area, meetings of the Area Health Sub-Committee being held quarterly. The Area Office is situated at the Health Department, Council Offices, Tantobie.

The County Medical Officer has kindly agreed to the incorporation in this report of the statistics relating to the personal health services.

(a) Clinics

(i) *Birth Control*

Clinics for the above are held in the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Wetherall House, Medomsley Road, Consett, on alternate Tuesday mornings.

(ii) *Ante and Post-Natal*

Clinics for the above are held at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Wetherall House, Medomsley Road, Consett, the former every Tuesday weekly, the latter on alternate Tuesday mornings. In addition clinics are held on alternate Thursday afternoons at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall, Blackhill and on alternate Wednesdays at the W.I. Hall, The Grove.

Apart from the purely medical aspect of ante-natal care there is of course a side to this subject which is frequently forgotten. Sympathetic understanding and the alleviation of the fears of the expectant mother, particularly those having their first baby, education in general nutrition, hygiene, the course of labour and gas and air or trilene analgesia are all a necessary part of good ante-natal care. Thus, if hospitals or family doctors themselves are unable to undertake health education or to organise classes for relaxation and ante-natal exercises, the possibility of undertaking this centrally at a Local Health Authority Clinic could be a future development.

(iii) *Child Welfare*

Child Welfare Clinics have a dual medical and educational function, the emphasis at present being on (i) periodic medical supervision of all children from the age of one to five years, when special attention is given to the early detection of defects such as deafness, speech problems, spasticity, squint and dental caries ; (ii) prophylaxis against infectious diseases ; and (iii) individual and group education of parents in child care. Included in this health education programme is accident prevention, advice on behaviour difficulties with special consideration given to premature babies, illegitimate, deprived or neglected infants and members of problem families. These services should supplement and not replace the General Practitioners' Service.

Clinics are held as follows:—

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE, WETHERALL HOUSE, MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT—Fridays all day.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALL, BLACKHILL—Alternate Thursday afternoons.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE HALL, THE GROVE, CONSETT—Alternate Wednesdays.

(iv) *Artificial Sunlight*

Clinics for the above are held in the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre. Wetherall House, Medomsley Road, Consett, on Tuesday and Friday afternoons weekly.

(v) *Immunisation and Vaccination*

This has been carried out at:—

- (a) Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics throughout the Area and
- (b) By General Practitioners by personal arrangement with parents.

When a child reaches the age of three months propaganda material is sent through the post to all parents. Details of facilities together with consent forms for smallpox vaccination and diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation are enclosed with this literature. When a child reaches the age of twelve months and 4 years 9 months, further propaganda pamphlets regarding diphtheria immunisation are sent.

Particulars of Immunisation and Vaccination during 1958

	Diphtheria Immunisation		Smallpox Vaccination	Poliomyelitis (Injections)		
	Primary	Booster		1	2	3
General Practitioners	368	146	234	—	—	—
Local Health Authority Clinics	64	50	42	411	2,494	1,097
Total	432	196	276	411	2,494	1,097

So far as Poliomyelitis vaccination was concerned special clinic sessions were arranged, the injections being given by either General Medical Practitioners or Local Health Authority doctors.

(vi) *School Clinic*

Separate accommodation is set aside in Wetherall House, Medomsley Road, Consett, for this clinic. It is open daily and is attended on Tuesdays and Fridays by the full-time Medical Officer who also carries out the routine medical inspections of children at the schools in the Urban District.

(b) **Nursing in the Home and Midwifery Services**

(i) *Midwifery*

During the year 698 live and still births were assigned to the Area, 49 per cent. occurred in hospital and 51 per cent. at home, 25 cases of the latter being delivered in the presence of a doctor. There were no maternal deaths—16 stillbirths and 19 deaths in the first week of life.

Of the six County Midwives carrying out domiciliary midwifery in the district 2 own cars which they are authorised to use in the course of their official duties. All are trained in the use of and possess apparatus for gas and air analgesia. Twenty-five-and-a-half per cent. of domiciliary cases were given gas and air analgesia.

(ii) *Domiciliary Nursing*

Six nurses made a total of 16,465 home visits during the year, 10,683 64.8 per cent. of which were made to patients over the age of 65 years. Since these aged people usually require general care and general toilet, the time spent at each visit is frequently much longer than at the homes of younger patients and obviously with an ageing population, the case loads

are going to become heavier even if the minimum attention is being given to ensure comfort. The following is an analysis of these visits and the types of cases nursed.

	AGE GROUPS			CLASSIFICATION						
	0—5 yrs.	5—65 yrs.	65+ yrs.	Medical	Surgical	Infectious Diseases	Tuber- culosis	Maternal Complica- tions	Injections only	Others
New Cases	16	195	239	279	153	—	18	—	—	—
Visits	474	5,308	10,683	10,434	4,977	—	784	—	2,650	270

(c) Health Visitor Service

There are five Health Visitors in the Consett Urban District, the following domiciliary visits being made during the year:—

Maternity and Child Welfare	..	..	..	..	..	8,526
Tuberculosis ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,193
Mental Deficiency ..	..	..	..	..	..	318
Schools ..	..	..	..	..	..	555
General Health ..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Aged People ..	..	..	..	..	..	286

(d) Ambulance Service

The Urban District is served by the County Ambulance Depot situated at Villa Real, Consett. The establishment of personnel and vehicles at this depot is as follows:—

Driver Attendants ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Ambulances ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7

The following table gives details of the work undertaken in the Consett area during the year 1958:—

Journeys Undertaken	Cases carried			Mileage
	Stretcher	Sitting	Total	
4,137	3,309	15,121	18,430	129,349

Following the re-organisation of the Ambulance Service, which was implemented on the 1st April, 1958, the County Ambulance Depot situated at Villa Real now operates on a 12-hour basis only (8 a.m.-8 p.m.) Monday to Friday: on an 8-hour basis on Saturday (8 a.m.-4 p.m.) : and is closed on Sunday. Immediate cover for the remainder of each 24 hours is provided from the Stanley Depot, operating under the overall supervision of a Central Control at Durham. By a system of direct telephone lines and radio the Central Control maintains a close check on the disposition of vehicles in all parts of the county and is able to reinforce any area as necessary.

Under re-organisation the Consett Ambulance Control was abolished and the functions were transferred to Stanley Depot where the staff includes one telephonist responsible for accepting calls during the day time. During his off-duty periods this work is undertaken by the driving staff. As a temporary measure an arrangement has been made with the G.P.O. for calls to be re-directed to the Central Control at Durham at times when all drivers at the Stanley Depot are absent, but consideration is being given to a revision of this system.

(e) Prevention of Illness—Care and Aftercare

There are no voluntary District Care Committees, the Local Health Authority discharging the functions imposed by Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Those cases discharged from hospital and requiring further nursing are visited by the home nurse if necessary or supervised and advised by the Health Visitor if this should be requested. Nursing requisites can be hired from the Central Depot at Durham.

(f) Domestic Help Service

This service has been used even more extensively during the year than previously.

Charges are made, the amount depending on the income of the household.

At the beginning of January, 1958, 250 cases in this district were being served by a Home Help. There were 51 new cases during the year and of the total of 301 receiving the service, 285 (94.6 per cent.) were old age pensioners ; 9 were suffering from sickness ; and there were 6 maternity cases.

Because of an increased allocation of money to this service the waiting list disappeared and many cases were allocated extra hours of assistance by the Home Help. This service, together with the Home Nursing Service is probably of most benefit to the aged person, for either alone or together these services allow old people to remain longer in their own homes among familiar faces and places and delay their admission to hostels and hospitals.

(g) Mental Health Services

Occupation Centre for Mentally Handicapped Children

A wing of the former I.D. Hospital at Villa Real converted in June, 1953, has continued to be used for mentally defective children excluded from school under Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944. Eleven males up to the age of 15, 9 females under 21 and 4 females over 21 from the North West of Durham travel daily to this centre. The Education Department have arranged from the outset provision of school meals and free milk to these pupils. From September, 1956 a special 'bus commenced to collect pupils each morning and return them to their homes each afternoon.

This centre by relieving parents of continuous strain and by teaching discipline, sense of social responsibility and elementary training in good habits, social behaviour, handicrafts such as rug-making and needlework and road safety, provides a very valuable service to the community.

(h) Local Health Authority Hostel Accommodation

Admissions of those needing care and attention to local health authority hostels are arranged directly with the Welfare Department at Durham or after reference to the District Health Departments—up-to-date waiting list for this accommodation being held locally.

During the year 11 old people were admitted to the following hostels—3 Lanchester, 4 Stanhope, 1 Chester-le-Street, 1 Barnard Castle, 1 Durham and 1 Houghton. This unfortunate scattering should be avoided however once the Consett Hostel now in the course of construction has been completed. Many more than those actually admitted were also referred to the Department, but by means of visits, provision of home helps and home nursing facilities, many were able to continue in their own homes, indeed it was frequently only when grave illness and constant attention was necessary that they had to be removed. Quite often old people are reluctant to go to hospital even though apparently everyone but themselves realises that this is the only course open to them, and it was necessary to obtain a Court Order for the compulsory admission and detain of one old man in a County Hostel.

(i) Welfare of the Physically Handicapped

The Club run by and for the physically handicapped has now been operating most successfully for about a year, the County Welfare Officer giving advice as and when necessary. Meetings are held every Tuesday afternoon in the Y.M.C.A. hall and all handicapped persons are welcome. At the end of the year, the Consett District Branch of the Durham County Association for the Welfare of the Physically Handicapped was also formed and this Voluntary Committee should extend the excellent work already being done in this field.

So far as housing needs of this section of the community is concerned, the Council has for some time appreciated their special problems. Adaptations to existing houses frequently provide all that is necessary but there are still small numbers who can only be satisfactorily assisted if specially built houses are provided. Following the consideration by the Council of the report on a detailed survey of the housing conditions of all the known handicapped persons in the Consett Urban District, together with an assessment of their physical disabilities, the Council's Surveyor was instructed to proceed with plans and estimates for the provision of six specially built houses. The County Council have agreed to contribute towards the additional costs involved and I am confident that once completed they will be of tremendous value to the tenants selected.

(j) Chiropody Service for the Aged

A W.V.S. sponsored chiropody service for the old people commenced at the beginning of the year. The demand for such a service was obviously

great and very much appreciated by those old people receiving treatment, hence the Council decided that the rest of the district must be covered if at all possible.

The formation of a Voluntary Committee was sponsored by the Council who agreed to contribute £165 for the inauguration of three weekly foot clinics throughout the district. The work of the Voluntary Committee and other workers in arranging appointments etc., will be exacting but well worth all the effort.

C. Hospital and General Practitioners' Services in the Area

The Local Hospital Services are administered by the North-West Durham Hospital Management Committee on behalf of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. The Secretary has kindly provided the following information on the Hospitals and Clinics serving this Area.

Maiden Law Hospital

At 31st December, 1958, the following number of beds were available:—

Ear, Nose and Throat	..	..	..	24
Chest Unit (Tuberculosis)	..	..	..	84
Total	..	..	..	<u>108</u>

Lee Hill Hospital

This Hospital with a complement of 307 beds (62 of which are used as Part III accommodation for the County Council) and a Medical Out-patients' Department, deals with the Chronic Sick and includes a section for Orthopaedic Tuberculosis cases.

Bed allocation is as follows:—

Orthopaedic	..	..	..	..	28
Mental	..	..	..	..	44
Chronic Sick	..	..	..	..	173
Part III Accommodation	..	..	..	..	62
Total	..	..	..	..	<u>307</u>

Shotley Bridge General Hospital

Out-patients facilities for all the Specialities exist at this Hospital. The 533 beds are allocated as follows:—

Surgical	..	..	..	..	121
Medical	..	..	..	..	98
Gynaecological	..	..	..	..	43
Orthopaedic	..	..	..	..	45
Paediatrics	..	..	..	..	4
Thoracic Surgery	..	..	..	..	114
Radiotherapy	..	..	..	..	50
Plastic Surgery	..	..	..	..	58
Total	..	..	..	..	<u>533</u>

Richard Murray Hospital

There are 32 Obstetric beds at this Hospital.

Infectious Diseases Hospital

Patients in the Area suffering from infectious diseases were admitted to the Chester-le-Street Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Chest Clinic, Villa Real

This clinic, operating from the converted wing of the old Infectious Diseases Hospital, provides a full chest clinic service including screening, refills, B.C.G. vaccination and resettlement sessions as follows:—

Tuesday mornings—9.15 a.m. each week
Wednesday mornings—9.15 a.m. each week
Wednesday afternoons—2 p.m. each week

Friday mornings—9.15 a.m. each week
Friday afternoons—2 p.m. each week

Contacts of known cases of T.B.
—Males.
Artificial Pneumo-thorax and
Pneumo-peritoneum refill.
Females.
Children up to 16 years of age
and B.C.G. Vaccination.

Venereal Diseases

Treatment and diagnostic facilities are provided by Clinics outside the Area as follows:—

NEWCASTLE GENERAL HOSPITAL, WESTGATE ROAD, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

Males and Females:—

Monday to Friday: 9 a.m. to 12 noon ; 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sunday (Emergency only): 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

DURHAM COUNTY HOSPITAL.

Females: Monday and Thursday: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Males: Monday and Thursday: 4.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Executive Council Service

There are 17 general medical practitioners (8 being in a group practice), 7 chemists and 8 dentists operating in the urban district.

III. ANNUAL REPORT OF RAINFALL, ETC., 1958.

The Surveyor and Engineer has kindly provided me with the following information:—

Month (1958)	Rainfall in ins.		No. of days rain fell		Heaviest Daily Fall	
	West- wood	Crook- hall	West- wood	Crook- hall	Ins.	Date
January	2.28	2.12	16	17	.31	6th
February	4.61	3.46	19	19	.76	7th
March	2.57	2.38	18	16	.65	28th
April	2.08	1.79	11	11	.82	3rd
May	4.27	3.81	19	19	.72	23rd
June	3.20	3.08	19	17	.62	2nd
July	4.30	3.88	17	19	1.58	16th
August	2.01	1.68	19	19	.33	10th
September	2.19	2.29	17	15	.30	9th
October	1.66	1.65	14	14	.59	3rd
November .. ..	.52	.42	12	12	.14	23rd
December	4.77	4.47	21	19	.95	18th
	34.46	31.03	202	197	—	—

The heaviest daily rainfall of 1958 was on 16th July, when 1.58 inches of rain fell, and the wettest month was December with 4.77 inches. The driest month was November with .42 inches of rain.

APPENDIX A

Year	No. of Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified.														Tuber- culosis				
	Popu- lation	Deaths	Death Rate	Live Births	Birth Rate	Infan- tile Deaths	Infant Death Rate	Neo- Natal Deaths	Neo- Natal Death Rate	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diph- theria	Polio- myeli- tis			Dysentery	Enteric	Food Poisoning
															Pul.	Non Pul.			
1937	37,280	448	12.0	677	18.1	48	70.9	—	—	—	147	—	180	—	3	—	—	29	24
1938	37,340	435	11.5	670	17.9	36	53.7	—	—	—	169	—	154	—	19	1	—	23	26
1939	37,420	453	12.1	705	18.8	51	72.3	—	—	6	54	34	73	—	—	3	—	35	14
1940	37,040	469	12.6	676	18.2	40	59.1	—	—	1,243	28	196	10	—	—	47	—	25	14
1941	37,040	409	11.0	639	17.2	42	66.9	—	—	376	47	120	18	—	—	—	—	26	13
1942	36,210	433	11.9	671	18.5	40	59.6	—	—	299	83	75	18	2	—	—	—	17	22
1943	35,320	432	12.2	602	17.0	28	46.5	—	—	291	62	72	29	—	—	—	—	31	12
1944	35,050	434	12.0	732	20.8	32	43.0	—	—	306	15	65	33	1	—	—	—	45	32
1945	35,310	435	12.3	694	19.6	34	48.9	—	—	117	48	11	13	—	—	1	—	34	20
1946	36,760	415	11.2	751	20.4	30	39.5	—	—	218	41	108	14	—	—	1	—	33	14
1947	37,040	415	11.2	780	21.0	28	35.8	—	—	385	64	29	1	7	—	—	2	43	16
1948	38,820	417	10.7	737	18.9	41	55.6	—	—	522	111	104	2	—	5	—	—	53	19
1949	38,900	463	11.9	708	18.2	29	40.9	17	24.01	142	52	19	1	—	—	—	—	40	9
1950	39,130	482	12.3	684	17.4	30	43.8	15	23.39	375	59	212	—	2	3	—	1	79	12
1951	39,020	435	11.1	659	16.8	23	34.9	17	25.79	740	24	85	—	2	5	—	1	62	14
1952	38,840	427	10.9	647	16.6	17	26.2	10	15.45	281	61	143	1	2	21	—	1	39	8
1953	38,740	413	10.6	650	16.7	20	30.76	10	15.38	332	45	244	—	2	13	—	255	32	8
1954	38,830	477	12.2	587	15.1	19	32.3	11	18.7	114	15	130	—	4	64	—	32	27	11
1955	38,770	419	10.8	627	16.1	19	30.3	12	19.1	771	14	23	—	—	33	—	23	21	5
1956	38,770	430	11.0	596	15.3	18	30.2	13	21.8	24	16	148	—	3	30	—	16	29	5
1957	38,780	436	11.2	644	16.6	14	21.7	11	17.0	997	41	45	—	—	—	—	3	24	6
1958	38,890	490	12.6	682	17.5	28	41.0	23	33.7	26	6	58	—	3	3	—	1	22	1

APPENDIX B

ANALYSIS OF THE NOTIFIED AND CONFIRMED CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Name of Disease	Under 1 Year		1		2		3		4		5		6-10		11-15		16-20		21-35		36-45		46-65		66 and Over		Age not Known		Totals	
	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.
Scarlet Fever							3	3			1	1	1	1	1	1													6	6
Whooping Cough ..	6	6	7	7	4	4	5	5	11	11	14	14	10	10					1	1									58	58
Measles ..	6	6	2	2	4	4	5	5	5	5	3	3	1	1														26	26	
Dysentery ..	1	1					1	1					1	1														3	3	
Acute Pneumonia													2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	3					10	10
Food Poisoning			1	—	2	—											1	1	2	—			2	—					8	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ..																	3	3	10	10	3	3							16	16
Acute Poliomyelitis			2	2											1	1													3	3
Totals ..	13	13	12	11	10	8	14	14	16	16	18	18	15	15	3	3	5	5	14	12	5	5	5	3					130	123

APPENDIX C **DETAILS OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS IN THE URBAN DISTRICT**

Location of Sewage Disposal Works	Type of Treatment	Area Drained	No. of Properties Draining to Works (approx.)		Population (Approx.) for which Designed	Existing Population (Approx.)
			Houses	Bldgs.		
Westwood	Percolating Filter Treatment	Grove, Moorside, Consett ; part of Castleside (Lanchester R.D.C.) ; Blackhill, Derwent Cottages, Medomsley, Shotley Bridge, Ebchester Allendale and Hamsterley Colliery.	8,176	293	28,700	26,960
Crookhall	do.	Part of Consett, Crookhall, part of Leadgate	1,486	43	5,500	4,893
Pont Burn	do.	Part of Leadgate, Bradley Cottages, Pont	1,371	32	4,550	4,524
Knitsley	do.	Delves, Knitsley and part of Templetown	827	9	1,500	2,718

APPENDIX D

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	Local Authority	Type of Property			Total
		Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	
I. No. of Properties in Local Authority's District	35	11,640	56	1,588	13,319
II. No. of Properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1958, as a result of:—					
(a) Notification ..	6	82	1	26	115
(b) Otherwise ..	29	348	10	337	724
III. No. of Properties (under II) found to be infested by rats	11	73	1	10	95
IV. No. of Properties (under II) found to be infested by mice	4	35	—	15	54
V. No. of Infested Properties (under III and IV) treated by Local Authority ..	15	108	1	25	149
VI. No. of informal notices served under Section 4:—					
(1) Treatment ..	7	36	1	12	56
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing) ..	9	53	2	20	84
VII. No. of visits made by Local Authority during treatment and inspection of Properties	52	503	16	529	1,100

APPENDIX E

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949 SEWERS AND SEWAGE WORKS

Date of Sewer Campaign	No. of Manholes treated	Showing Signs of infestation	No. infestation
April, 1958	242	49	193
October, 1958	208	31	177
Test-baiting	170	3	167
Sewage Works and Buildings treated in conjunction with Sewer Campaign		Showing signs of infestation	
October, 1958			
Pont		Minor	
Knitsley		Minor	
Crookhall		—	
Ebchester		Minor	
Hamsterley Pump House		—	

APPENDIX F

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Prose- cutions
(1) Factories in which Sections 1/4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	23	5	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies ..	99	145	11	Nil
Total	122	150	11	Nil

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (Sec. 1)	6	6	—	3	—
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec. 7) :					
(a) Insufficient	3	2	—	3	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	3	4	—	2	—
Total	12	12	—	8	—

APPENDIX G

Premises	Structural		Cleansing and Re-decoration		Water Closets		W.C. Notices		Lack of Refuse Containers		Drainage		Wash-up Sinks		Wash-hand Basins		Towels, Nailbrush and Soap		Clothing Accommodation		First Aid Equipment		Smoking		Constant Hot Water		Food Exposure		Other Defects		Visits	
	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A		
Bakehouses	—	—	7	7	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	31	
Food Manufacturers	12	4	22	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	1	1	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	3	—	173	
Fried Fish Shops and Wet Fish Shops	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	6	1	1	61
Ice Cream Manufacturers	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	89	
Caterers and Snack Bars	2	—	10	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	2	2	—	—	72	
Grocers and General Dealers	4	2	16	7	—	4	3	—	—	7	7	4	4	2	2	—	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	4	3	14	14	1	—	229	
Confectioners	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	8	7	—	—	122	
Greengrocers	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	86	
Hotels, Inns and Public Houses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	84	
Total	18	6	61	38	—	8	7	1	1	13	13	6	5	4	4	7	4	5	5	4	2	4	1	6	6	6	5	37	34	2	1	947

*S—Notices Served

A—Notices Abated

Notices Served 182

Defects Remedied 132

APPENDIX H

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ..	1,617	6	14	4,298	2,069	—
No. Inspected	1,617	6	14	4,298	2,069	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI ..						
Whole Carcases Condemned ..	2	1	1	3	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was Condemned ..	108	—	—	17	19	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci ..	6.80	16.6	7.14	.46	.96	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole Carcases Condemned ..	2	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	69	1	—	—	37	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4.39	16.6	—	—	1.83	—
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	2	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	1	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally Condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

